

# 2016 Tennessee Governor's Schools

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Who is eligible to attend the Tennessee Governor's Schools?

The Tennessee Governor's Schools are special summer programs for talented tenth and eleventh grade students currently enrolled in Tennessee's public and private high schools (students who will be juniors and seniors in the 2016-17 academic year). The programs are demanding and require students who are high achievers. Eligible students should rank in the top of their high school class in academic performance/capability or should be highly talented in the arts. Each Governor's School application outlines specific student eligibility criteria.

Each application must include confidential recommendations from the student's school counselor and two teachers—references that identify the applicant as talented, highly motivated, and mature. Letters of recommendation from school counselors on the Confidential School Counselor's Recommendation Form are required. If you do not recommend a student, then please do not nominate a student by submitting an application.

### 2. What does it cost to attend the Tennessee Governor's Schools?

The Governor's Schools are funded by appropriations from the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee. All students attending Governor's Schools will receive a scholarship which covers the cost of tuition, dorms, and meals. However, some Governor's Schools have additional student activity fees to defray costs of activities or other non-academic expenses, which are not covered by the scholarship. Need-based financial support may be available in those instances.

Students must arrange for their transportation to and from the campus. If transportation costs or program/activity fees are a financial barrier to attending the Governor's School, students should contact the director of the school to which they are applying.

*Note: The Governor's School for the Arts has a program fee of \$2,850 and an activity fee of \$350. Accepted students may be awarded either a full program fee scholarship or a partial program fee scholarship or be permitted to attend with no scholarship. Refer to the Governor's School for the Arts application on the MTSU web site or contact the school for additional information about the program costs.*

### 3. When is the deadline for applications?

Applications must be postmarked no later than the deadline date(s) listed on page 2 of the application packet for the school(s) in question. School counselors should send all application materials directly to the school(s) to which the students are applying. Students applying to multiple schools must rank the schools in order of preference on the Certification of Application Form, which is included in each application packet. Applications received directly from students will not be considered.

*Note: School counselors may set an earlier deadline for materials to be returned to them so they have time to complete and mail by the postmark deadline.*

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### **4. May completed applications be submitted prior to a deadline?**

Yes, completed applications are encouraged to be submitted as soon as possible. This helps the university staff begin to process applications as they are received. However, special consideration is not given for applications submitted prior to the deadline.

### **5. What about the US Postal Service in terms of the deadline?**

It sometimes takes a week for mail to arrive from one part of the state to the other. Make allowance for this when mailing applications. To acquire confirmation of receipt, you may purchase the necessary service through the US Postal Service. Counselors are also welcome to contact the individual Governor's School to confirm that the application was received.

### **6. Must individual Governor's School directors accept applications that are incomplete, late, or do not meet the prerequisites?**

No. The directors are under no obligation to accept applications that are incomplete, late, or do not meet the prerequisites. If an applicant does not meet the Governor's Schools GPA requirement and/or other prerequisites, then the application will go into an ineligible file, and the Governor's School will not send any correspondence regarding the ineligible application. Each Governor's School director knows there are emergencies and unforeseen circumstances. If a problem should occur, the school principal should attach a letter explaining the situation and justify why the application should be considered.

### **7. How will the students be selected?**

The selection for the academic areas will be made at the individual school level. Committees review each student's application materials, transcripts, personal data, and recommendations, looking for the most exceptional students in Tennessee. The review/selection committees will select the students who will attend each school, along with a number of alternates. Students will receive a letter from each school to which they applied notifying them if they have been accepted, rejected or selected as an alternate. Selection for the Governor's School for the Arts will be made as a result of an audition and/or portfolio review.

### **8. Can students apply for more than one school?**

Students may submit applications to multiple Governor's Schools, but since the dates of the programs overlap, students accepted to more than one school will have to decide which program they would like to attend. Students applying to more than one school must rank the schools (1 = most preferred, 2, 3, etc.) in order of preference on the Application Certification form.

*Note: The Governor's School for the Arts does not encourage nor discourage students from auditioning in more than one art area. However, if a student chooses to do so, separate applications should be completed for each art area.*

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### **9. If a student accepts an invitation to one Governor's School, will he/she have a chance to accept an invitation to another one later if vacancies occur?**

No, students need to make sure they are going to attend before they accept.

### **10. What do students do if invited to more than one Governor's School?**

Each Governor's School to which students have been invited must be notified whether or not the student plans to accept by the deadline listed in the student notification information. Since there are only a small number of total spaces available, the invitations that are not accepted will then be offered to applicants on alternate lists. Student and counselor cooperation in this matter is greatly needed and is greatly appreciated.

### **11. If a student attended one of the Governor's Schools last summer, may he/she apply to attend this summer?**

No, a student who previously attended a Tennessee Governor's School will not be accepted. Additionally, no-shows and/or drop-outs from the previous year (without prior approval) are not permitted to reapply.

### **12. How does a student get specific information about individual Governor's Schools?**

Each Governor's School has a website with school-specific information. Additionally, students and counselors may call or email the individual school directly for more information. School counselors have contact information for each school and a list of directors.

### **13. What about activities outside of class?**

There will be a lot of them—concerts, plays, movies, and special events scheduled for after hours and the weekends. Students will also be free to take part in any of the activities on campus—sports, swimming, running, etc. Bring tennis racquets and basketball shoes!

### **14. Who are the instructors?**

Governor's Schools instructors include writers, language experts, historians, philosophers, artists, actors, conductors, expert musicians, scientists, distinguished professors, and career level teachers – the best in their fields.

### **15. Do students earn any special credits?**

Some Governor's Schools award college credit for courses completed during the program, while others do not. The number of college credits offered by specific Governor's Schools will vary. Please refer to the descriptions of each program within the application packet for information regarding whether a specific Governor's School will offer college credit. All students who complete the program will be awarded a certificate of merit signed by the governor.

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### **16. Is transportation provided to/from church?**

Students may obtain this information from the directors of the individual schools.

### **17. Does an up-to-date transcript need to be included?**

Yes. Since the deadline for the return of the applications may be before the semester grades are distributed, schools should provide the most recent grades available.